

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending. Claims 1, 5, and 12 are currently amended. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-11, and 13-14 are canceled. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview

Applicants than the Examiner for the Interview held on or around July 5, 2007. Applicants discussed amendments to the claims with the Examiner that should place the application into condition for allowance.

The Examiner agreed that claim 12 is a proper dependent claim as written, and indicated that the objection to claim 12 will be withdrawn. The Examiner also indicated that the objection to claim 5 is based on the observation that SEQ ID NO.: 25 is already a truncated sequence, and thus the Examiner finds the claim language referring to a truncated sequence confusing. Thus, claim 5 is currently amended to recite a sequence that is "further truncated."

Claim 2 is canceled since it was drawn to non-elected subject matter. Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 10-11, and 13-14 are also canceled.

Applicants submit that claim 9 can be retained in the application, and should be allowable, since it is dependent on allowable claim 1.

Conclusion

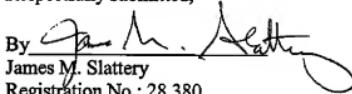
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$60.00 is attached hereto.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mark J. Konieczny, Reg. No. 47,715 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 23, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
James M. Slattery
Registration No.: 28,380
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant